

## BOUSFIELD John Howe

NZ Herald, 13 October 1884

On Saturday afternoon a Coroner's inquest was held at Onehunga before Dr. Philson and a jury to inquire into the cause of the death of Mr. John Howe Bousfield. The deceased had been living for some months past at the Manukau Hotel, Onehunga, where he was at the time of his death on Friday last. Mr. Collins, Dr. Scott, and Dr. Wansell, were examined as witnesses. The evidence went to prove that the deceased was subject to fits, and had disease of the heart. He was a heavy drinker, and on Friday last was suffering from delirium. In consequence it was deemed advisable to tie him in his bedroom. Notwithstanding, he managed to free himself, and jumped out of the upstairs bedroom window into the hotel yard below, a fall of some 17 feet. Some hours afterwards he died. The doctors did not consider the fall had seriously hurt the deceased, but the Coroner deemed it best, under the circumstances, that an inquest should be held. After hearing the evidence, the jury brought in a verdict to the effect that the deceased had died from delirium tremens. The deceased, Mr. John Howe Bousfield, was only 29 years of age, and unmarried. He was of gentlemanly manners and pleasing address. He was respectably connected in England, but has no relatives in New Zealand. His father is wealthy, and it is said that the deceased himself was entitled to considerable property. For some time past deceased had been making an extensive and leisurely tour through the Australian colonies and New Zealand, and had lately expressed his intention of returning to England shortly. The funeral took place yesterday (Sunday) morning, when the deceased was buried in the Church of England burial-ground at Onehunga. The Rev. Mr. Mulgan was the officiating clergyman who performed the burial service. Amongst the mourners who followed Mr. Bousfield's remains to the grave were Mr. W. Coleman, solicitor, and Mr. E. M. Coleman, who were professionally concerned in Mr. Bousfield's affairs. They represented on the sad occasion the father of the deceased, and assisted in rendering the last mournful offices to the unfortunate young gentleman who came to such a melancholy and untimely end, so far from friends and home.

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